

When President Obama became President, bipartisanship ended. The ARRA—which everybody agrees, the stimulus package, has helped our economy and provided millions of jobs in State and local government and education and other places and provided jobs in the private sector—didn't have a single vote on the Republican side. Not one single vote.

And now on health care, we see not one single vote coming from the Republican side. Doing nothing is not the answer. Everybody knows the health system needs reform.

In my city, the emergency room at Charity Hospital, the public hospital, is about to close. People are having great problems paying their premiums. We need health reform, and we need bipartisanship.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I like to say Washington, D.C., is the world capital of unintended consequences. That seems to be becoming more true every day.

The American people want health care reform that lowers the cost of health insurance and lowers the cost of health care. But a new study produced by Indiana's leading provider of health insurance yesterday shows that the cost of health insurance under the Democratic bill will actually go up for most Americans. That's right. You heard that right.

According to a 238-page study by the actuaries at WellPoint, the Democratic plan, with its mandates and regulations, will actually drive up premiums for small business owners and individuals. Get this, young and healthy consumers will be hardest hit. For young and healthy Americans, their premiums could actually triple in some States. And for a family of four, premiums would more than double.

Now the White House has denounced this, and I know there will be denunciations here on the floor of this study; but the reality is the experts in the industry are pointing out regulations and mandates are going to result in Democrat health care reform meaning higher cost of health insurance to Americans.

P.J. O'Rourke had it right when he said if you think health care is expensive now, wait until it is free.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of national comprehensive health care reform for all Americans. Our district has the highest number of uninsured adults in the Nation.

Since 1965, Medicare has proven to be one of the great success stories of the Federal Government. It is the second most popular government-run program behind Social Security. That's why I strongly support national health care reform that includes the national public option similar to Medicare.

Some of our Republican colleagues have been quick to say that H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Care Choices Act, endangers traditional Medicare and eliminates the Medicare Advantage program. These assertions are not true. The fact is that H.R. 3200 does not use funds from the Medicare trust fund to pay for reform. Instead, it eliminates waste and fraud within the Medicare program and abolishes the infamous doughnut hole that was created under a Republican Congress in 2003 on the prescription drug plan and strengthens the financial health of Medicare.

In 2003, a Republican Congress created the Medicare Advantage program, and insurance companies have been benefiting ever since.

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

(Mr. AUSTRIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, while we celebrate Filipino American History Month in October, unfortunately the Philippines has been devastated by multiple typhoons in the past few weeks, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Filipino people.

My father came to the United States from the Philippines to finish medical school. He became a U.S. citizen and lived the American dream. I am aware of at least two other Members of Filipino descent, and I am proud to be a first-generation Filipino American elected to Congress, which is why I co-sponsored House Resolution 780 which recognizes Filipino American History Month.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the economic, cultural, social, and many other contributions of Filipino Americans. Our Nations have been brought together as partners by crucial events throughout history, and even though we are separated by an ocean, the two countries are connected by their long-standing relationship.

Mr. Speaker, may the long-standing relationship between the Philippines and the United States remain strong.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, the American people elect us to serve as innovators and problem solvers. I am an engineer; I see a problem, and I come up with a solution. The Democratic Party is a party of solutions, es-

pecially when it comes to health insurance reform.

So I ask you today, Mr. Speaker, where are the Republican solutions? One hundred and thirty-three days ago, my friends from the Republican side of the aisle said they were going to have a comprehensive plan. Where is that plan, and just what are those solutions?

Democrats have already pledged to make the merged health reform bill public for 72 hours before it is considered on the floor. Will Republicans promise to do the same?

Given the status quo of health insurance coverage in the United States, it appears as if Republicans want to continue to deny coverage for preexisting conditions, force families into bankruptcy because of health care costs, stifle the growth of business, and continue to play politics as usual by defending insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies. Then they should also be happy to be labeled the party of "no."

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, health care reform should not hurt my patients, many of which are seniors. Somewhere in this Capitol Building, behind closed doors and away from the public view, the Speaker and her liberal allies are rewriting the health care bill that they want. We don't know what is going to be included in that health care reform bill, despite the allegations of my friend Representative BLUMENAUER earlier this morning. But one thing is for certain; it will gut our Medicare program.

Our seniors have suffered tremendously since this recession began. Many of their 401(k)s are now 201(k)s; they have lost 50 percent of their value. Yet, my Democratic colleagues don't think the seniors have paid enough. So they are asking our seniors to foot the bill for health insurance reform by cutting \$500 billion from the Medicare program. These cuts will result in seniors losing benefits under the Medicare Advantage program, such as vision, dental, hearing, and even annual checkups. These cuts will result in longer wait times and even make it harder for senior patients to find a doctor.

Mr. Speaker, I say again: health care reform should not hurt our seniors.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is doing health insurance reform this fall. What does that mean for middle income Americans? It means an insurance company can no longer decide to deny you coverage because of a preexisting condition, or jack up your rates because of preexisting conditions.